

18 Jun 1996

ACQUISITION POLICY 96A-006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

FROM: SAF/AQ
1060 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1060

SUBJECT: Field Empowerment Through Increased Approval Thresholds

An Air Force Materiel Command team recently concluded an examination of the acquisition approval processes. Their goal was streamlining while maximizing the program execution role of field leadership. The team's recommendations covered a wide range of increased approval thresholds and redelegations aimed at further empowering field leaders.

The suggestions were right on target as we continue to reform Air Force acquisition processes. As part of our continuing process improvement, the following recommendations are approved. These changes are effective immediately.

General Changes

(1) Program Categories

The three current Air Force Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement (AFFARS) program categories (Major, Selected and Other Programs) will now be simplified to only two (PEO Programs and DAC Programs). Other Contracting will remain unchanged.

(2) Solicitation Reviews

Reviews will now be based on the two new simplified program categories and increased thresholds. There is no longer a distinction between competitive/non-competitive, or other categories. See Attachment 2.

(3) Business Clearance Approval Authority/Review Authority

Reviews will now be based on the two new simplified program categories and increased thresholds. This is also made consistent with solicitation review thresholds. See Attachment 2.

(4) Contract Clearance Approval Authority

Simplified program categories and thresholds consistent with solicitation reviews and business clearance reviews. See Attachment 2.

Threshold Changes

(1) Acquisition Plans

The acquisition categories and dollar thresholds matrix under AFFARS 5307.104-90(b) (1) is superseded. Now only two categories of APs will be approved by SAF/AQ: (1) communication/computer acquisitions over \$100M which are not integral to a weapon system, and (2) all other acquisitions over \$500M. See Attachment 3.

(2) Justification & Approvals (J&As) for Other than Full and Open Competition

The J&A approval threshold for all AFMC DACs is now \$50M as is AFMC/CC's approval authority for J&As for Other Contracting. See Attachment 3.

Delegation Changes

(1) Source Selection Authority (SSA)

ASAF(A) is the SSA for all competitive negotiated procurements over \$500M (delegable). (See Attachment 4)

PDASAF(A&M) is the SSA for all competitive negotiated procurements for designated Major Automated Information Systems (MAIS) and other comm and computer acquisitions (not integral to a weapon system) over \$100M (delegable). (See Attachment 4)

PEOs/DACs/Center CCs are SSAs for efforts less than those assigned to ASAF(A) and PDASAF (A&M) and more than those assigned to the single managers (delegable). (See Attachment 4)

Single managers are SSAs for source selections between \$5M and next highest threshold (delegable). (See Attachment 4).

(2) Ratification

ASAF(A) has delegated authority to ratify authorized commitments for programs to the PEO or DAC. Center Commanders have authority for ratification actions for Other Contracting.

(3) Undefined Contractual Actions (UCAs)

ASAF(A) has delegated authority to approve the issuance of UCAs to PEOs and DACs (without dollar limitations) for assigned programs. This authority is further delegable to no lower than the single manager for UCAs less than \$50M. See Attachment 4.

By embracing these redelegations and significant threshold increases, we formally acknowledge the confidence that we have in our acquisition professionals, field leadership, and the Air Force acquisition system. These changes will be formally incorporated into the AFFARS and AFMC FAR Supplement.

4 Attachments:

1. DISTRIBUTION LIST
2. General Changes
3. Threshold Changes
4. Delegation Changes

DISTRIBUTION LIST

AFMC/CC
AFMC/PK/JA/DR

ASC/CC
ESC/CC
HSC/CC
SMC/CC
OO-ALC/CC
OC-ALC/CC
SA-ALC/CC
SM-ALC/CC
WR-ALC/CC

AFPEO/AT
AFPEO/FB
AFPEO/WP
AFPEO/JA
AFPEO/C3
AFPEO/BA
AFPEO/JL
AFPEO/SP

ALMAJCOM-FOA-DRU (CONTRACTING)

General Changes*(2) Solicitation Reviews*

<u>Threshold</u>	<u>Review Authority</u>	<u>Release Authority*</u>
Less than \$50M	BOCO/SLCO	J&A Approval Authority or SSA
\$50M to <\$500M	SCCO**	J&A Approval Authority or SSA
\$500M and above	HQ AFMC	J&A Approval Authority or SSA

* Conduct RFP reviews prior to release of formal RFP unless early release approved

** Delegable to SLCO on case-by-case basis

(3) Business Clearance Approval Authority (BCAA)/Review Authority (BCRA)

<u>Approval Threshold</u>	<u>PEO</u>	<u>DAC</u>	<u>Other Contracting</u>	<u>BCRA</u>
Competitive Actions*				
Less than \$50M	SSA	SSA	SSA	BOCO/SLCO
\$50M to <\$500M	SSA	SSA	SSA	SCCO
\$500M and above	SSA	SSA	SSA	HQ AFMC/PK

* When SAF/AQ or higher is SSA the SSAC Chairperson will be BCAA

Noncompetitive Actions

Less than \$50M	SM	SM	SM	BOCO/SLCO
\$50M to <\$500M	PEO*	DAC*	Center CC*	SCCO
\$500M and above	PEO*	DAC*	Center CC*	HQ AFMC/PK

* Delegable

(4) Contract Clearance Approval Authority

<u>Approval Threshold</u>	<u>PEO</u>	<u>DAC</u>	<u>Other Contracting</u>
Less than \$50M	BOCO/SLCO	BOCO/SLCO	BOCO/SLCO
\$50M to <\$500M*	SCCO	SCCO	SCCO
\$500M & above	HQ AFMC/PK	HQ AFMC/PK	HQ AFMC/PK

* Delegable to SLCO on case-by-case basis

Threshold Changes*(1) Acquisition Plans (Review/Approval)*

Programs and Other Contracting (Non Communications/Computer)

<u>Threshold</u>	<u>PEO</u>	<u>DAC</u>	<u>Other Contracting</u>	<u>Review/Coordinate</u>
\$5M to <\$50M	SM*	SM*	SM*	BOCO/SLCO
\$50M to <\$500M	PEO	DAC	Center CC	SCCO
\$500M & above	SAF/AQ	SAF/AQ	SAF/AQ	SAF/AQC

Communication/Computer, Not Integral to a Weapon System

<u>Threshold</u>	<u>PEO</u>	<u>DAC</u>	<u>Other Contracting</u>	<u>Review/Coordinate</u>
\$5M to <\$15/30M**	SM*	SM*	SM*	BOCO/SLCO
\$15/30M** to <\$100M	PEO	DAC	Center/CC	SCCO
\$100M and above	AQ	AQ	AQ	SAF/AQC

* Single Manager (SM) includes Lab/CC, SPD, Program Group Managers (PGMs) and Material Group Managers (MGMs)

** \$15M/\$30M means \$15M or more in any FY or \$30M or more for all program years

(2) Justification & Approvals (Review/Approval)

<u>Thresholds</u>	<u>PEO/DAC</u>	<u>AFMC Other Contracting</u>	<u>Reviewer</u>	<u>Other MAJCOMS</u>
Up to \$500K	CO	CO	PM	CO
\$500K - \$10M	PEO*/DAC*	Comp Ad	PM/CO/JA	Comp Adv***
\$10M(+) - \$50M	PEO**/DAC**	AFMC/CC**	PM/CO/JA/SCCO	PDASAF(A&M)
Over \$50M	ASAF(A)	ASAF(A)	PM/CO/JA/SCCO SAF/AQC PEO	ASAF(A)

* Delegable to Center or MAJCOM Competition Advocate

** Delegable to an official meeting the criteria at FAR 6.304 (a) (3)

*** Limited to \$5M for organizations listed in AFFARS 5306.304-90 (c). SAF/AQC

approves J&As between \$5M and \$10M.

Delegation Changes

(1) Source Selection Authority (SSA)/ Source Selection Plan (SSP)

Programs and Other Contracting (Non Communications/Computer)

<u>Threshold</u>	<u>SSA (Delegable)</u>	<u>SSP (Review)</u>	<u>SSP (Approve)</u>
\$5M to <\$50M	Single Manager*	BOCO/SLCO	SSA
\$50M to <\$500M	PEO/DAC/Center CC	SCCO	SSA
\$500M & above	ASAF(A)	SSAC	SSA

MAIS Programs & Communication/Computer, Not Integral to a Weapon System

<u>Threshold</u>	<u>SSA (Delegable)</u>	<u>SSP (Review)</u>	<u>SSP (Approve)</u>
\$5M to < \$15/30M**	Single Manager*	BOCO/SLCO	SSA
\$15/30M** to <\$100M	PEO/DAC/Center CC	SCCO	SSA
\$100M & above	PDASAF(A&M)	SSAC	SSA

* Single Manager (SM) includes Lab/CC, SPD, Program Group Managers (PGMs) and Material Group Managers (MGMs)

** \$15M/\$30M means \$15M or more in any FY or \$30M or more for all program years

(3) Undefinitized Contractual Actions (UCAs)

<u>Approval Threshold</u>	<u>PEO</u>	<u>DAC</u>	<u>Review</u>
Less than \$50M*	PEO	DAC	BOCO/SLCO
\$50M or greater**	PEO	DAC	BOCO/SLCO

* Delegable to SM or equivalent
 ** Nondelegable

